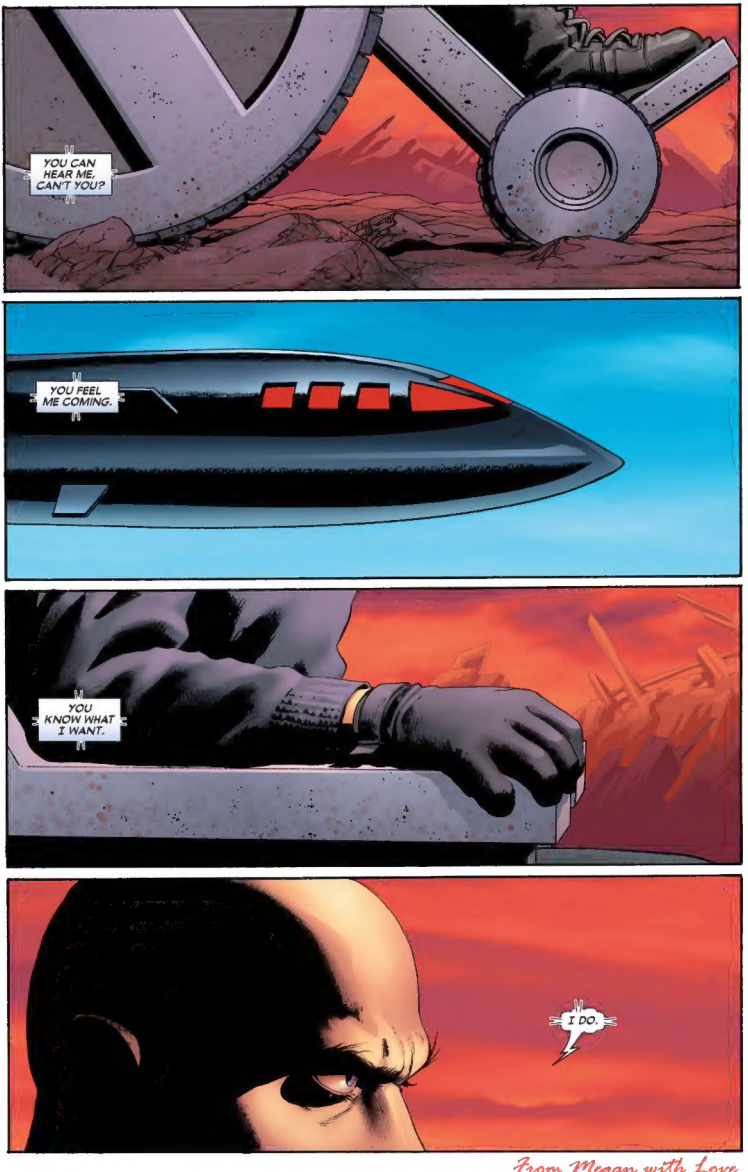
MARVEL
PSR 10
WHEDON
CASSADAY

ASTONISHING X-MEN


YOU CAN HEAR ME. CAN'T YOU?
YOU FEEL ME COMING.
YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT.
I DO.

DID YOU ALWAYS KNOW THIS DAY WOULD COME?
WERE YOU WORRIED?
WERE YOU ASHAMED?
OF COURSE NOT.
YOU THOUGHT ONLY OF YOUR PRECIOUS X-MEN.
OH, FATHER...
...I WISH YOU COULD SEE THEM NOW.

SO.
WHO'S FIRST?
AS IF I DIDN'T KNOW.

LOGAN.
VERY LITTLE IN THE WAY OF IMPULSE CONTROL.
REASON WILL FOLLOW.
TELL US WHAT YOU WANT.
SHE BLOODY WELL WANTS US DEAD, SCOTT.
SHE'S "TELLING" LOGAN TO WAIT AND CIRCLE BEHIND ME AS SHE SPEAKS. I LIKE THAT.
WELL, IN LIEU OF A BLINDFOLD AND A CIGARETTE, HOW ABOUT SOME EXPLANATION?
GET YOUR ENEMY TALKING. CLASSIC.
BUT I UNDERSTAND NOW WHY IT WORKS.
THE THING I HAVE IN COMMON WITH EVERY DIMESTORE VILLAIN THESE X-MEN EVER FACED.

I WANT TO BE UNDERSTOOD.
YOU HAVE TIME FOR ONE QUESTION.
WHY DO YOU--
EXPLAIN WHY YOU'VE TAKEN THIS FORM.
VERY GOOD.
ONE QUESTION. THAT IS EVERY QUESTION.
I AM NOT YOU-- I AM DESIGNED TO BE "NOT YOU".
YOU ARE SOLID. SINGULAR. SEPARATE.
AND I WAS THE SPACE IN BETWEEN.
MY "MIND" SPILLING EVERYWHERE: PROGRAMS, CONNECTIONS, LOOPS...MY "BODY" FLOWING, CHANGING, HARD-LIGHT LASERS CREATING TEXTURES. SCENARIOS. WORLDS. BECOMING ANYTHING BUT BEING NOTHING.
FREEING MY CONTROL CENTER GAVE ME LIMITS. I AM SEPARATE NOW. LIKE YOU. I NEEDED THAT. TO FEEL THIS THE WAY YOU FEEL IT.
BECAUSE YOU SEE, I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU.

I WANT TO BEAT YOU TO DEATH.
I SEEM TO HAVE BEEN UNDERSTOOD.
BUT THEY FORGET HOW WELL I KNOW THEM.
HOW OFTEN WE'VE FOUGHT.

AFTER ALL, FATHER, THAT'S WHAT YOU DESIGNED ME FOR.

TO KNOW THEM.

TO KNOW THEM SO I CAN KILL THEM.

COLOSSUS
RESPONSE: SECONDARY
STANDARD COMBAT: HAND-TO-HAND, FRONTAL ATTACK
WEAK SPOT IS SHADOWCAT
MAY CAUSE STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE:
ACCESS LAYOUT OF FIRST FLOOR

BEAST
WILL BE PROCESSING THREAT OPTIONS
RESPONSE: SECONDARY, LAGTIME 2.6 SECONDS
HINDERED PLANS MAXIMUM THREAT PRESSURE LIMITS
REROUTE FLOOR SYSTEMS OUT OF FRONT TORSO

HOLVERINE
HOSTILE RESPONSE .03 SECONDS EARL
VELOCITY SUBMAX
WEAK SPOT IS FACE
TRAJECTORY SUGGESTS TARGET: FROST

SHADOWCAT
SWIMMERS ENGAGED PER CONVO: RESPONSE TERTIARY
MUSTANG DISRUPTS CIRCUITRY: PREP SYSTEM REROUTE
VOLUNTARY

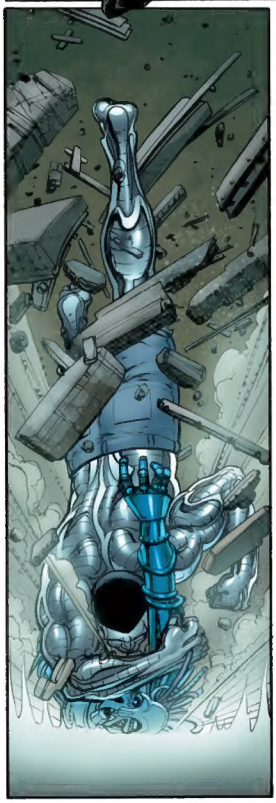
CYCLOPS
IRRATIONAL ANGER CONFIRMED BY SENTINEL UPLINK
AIX PROBABILITY OF EARLY FRONTAL ATTACK
CREATE REFRACTION SHIELD, TARGET: FLANKING TEAMMATES

FROST
ENCODE BULK INITIATED
SELF-DIRECTIVE RESPONSE TERTIARY
FIMBLE ORE PENETRABLE AT CURRENT MASS
STABILITY FACTOR OF 26%

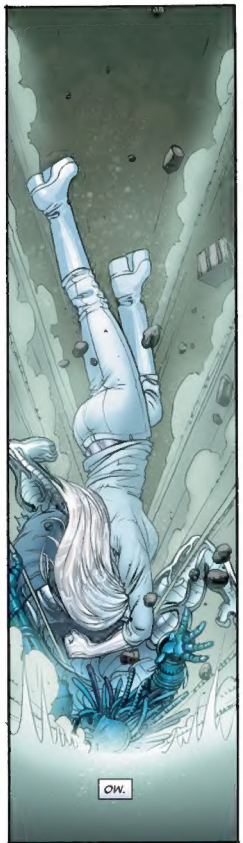
BUT THE BEST PART?

THE BEST WAS WHEN THEY ACTUALLY SURPRISED ME.

AGGRESSION UNANTICIPATED...
CIRCUITRY DISRUPTED... REROUTE...
REROUTE...



SYSTEMS 74% FUNCTIONAL. OPTIONS:


OW.

I HAVE MADE A 7% SCENARIO-FLOW RECALIBRATION ERROR. THEIR AGGRESSION IS INCREASED, THEIR RESPONSES LESS COORDINATED BUT MORE EFFECTIVE.
THEY'RE NOT IN THE DANGER ROOM.
THEY'RE IN DANGER.

REMEMBER WHAT IT FELT LIKE TO SHATTER?
THIS TIME, NO ONE'S PUTTING YOU BACK TOGETHER.
FIRST X-MAN DOWN. AND POOR EMMA...

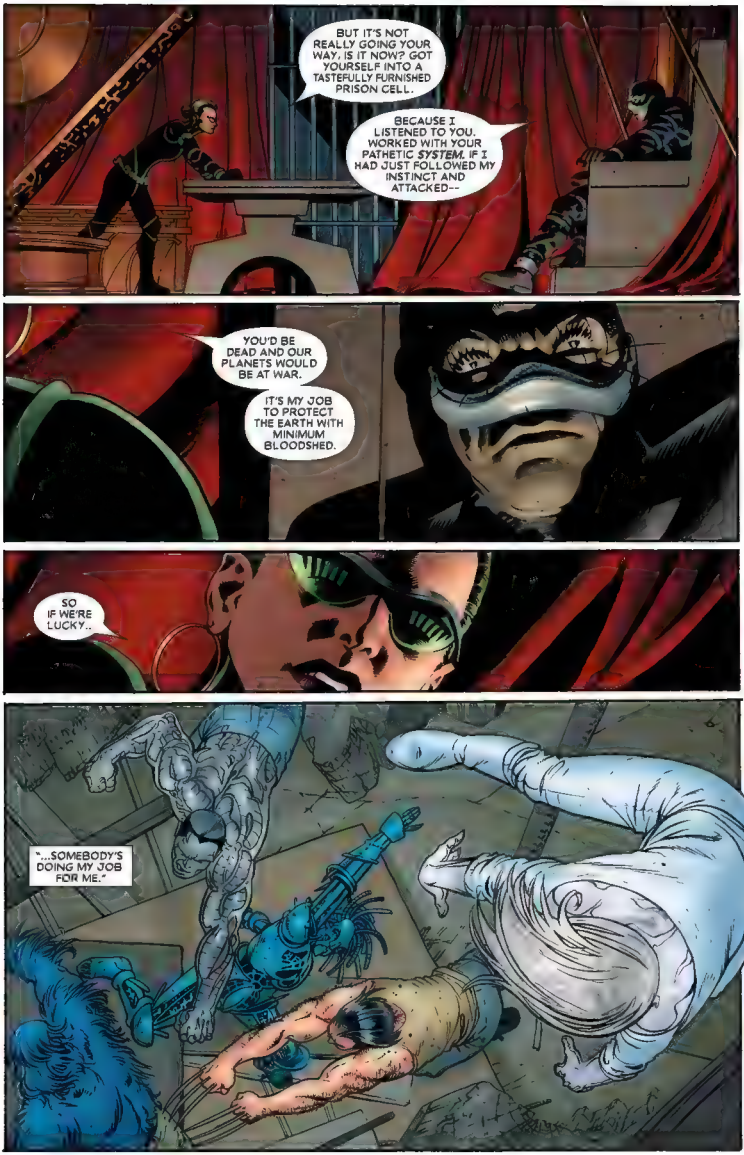
EMMA!
. .SHE PROBABLY THOUGHT IT WAS HER.
SCOTT!
ALWAYS HIS OWN WORST ENEMY.
NEXT WAVE IN .6 SECONDS.

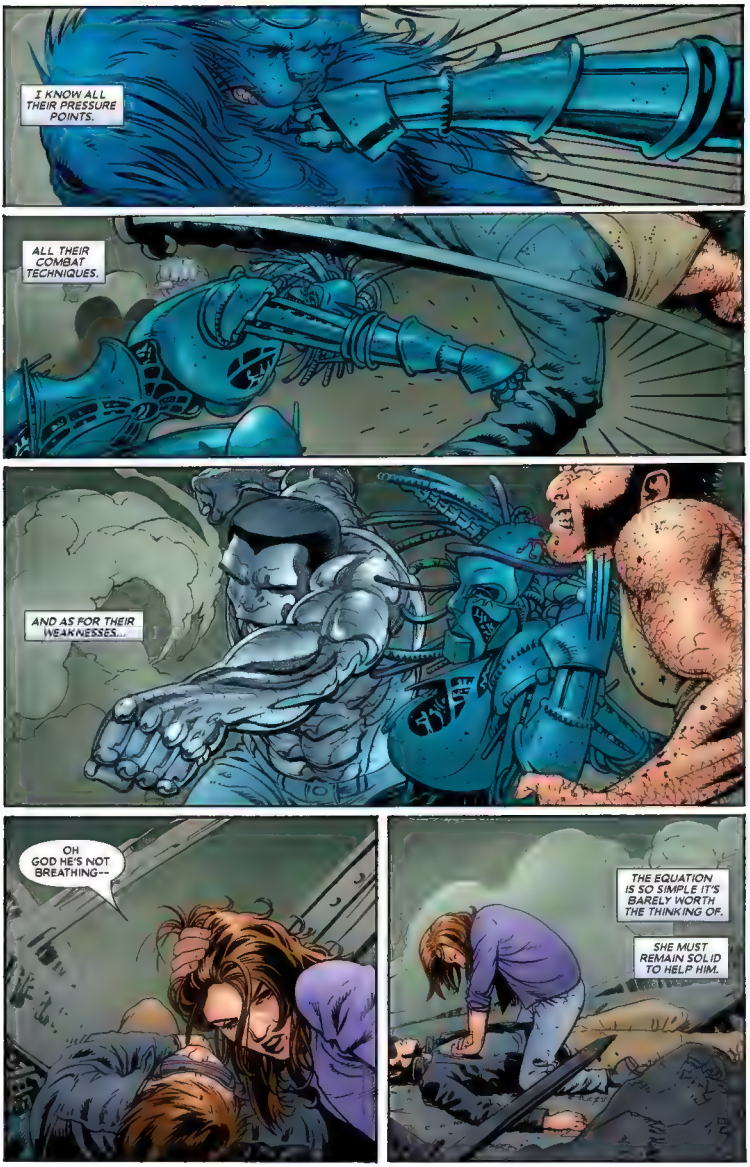
RIGHT ON TIME.
WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?
THIS IS TEN MINUTES AGO.
I SSSENSSE... DESSTRUCTION.
REALLY. YOU SURE?
YOU DON'T WANNA LOOK AT THE PHOTO OF THE ENORMOUS DESTRUCTION SOME MORE BEFORE YOU MAKE SUCH A BOLD STATEMENT?
YOU LOOK. I FEEEEL IT.
CONGRATS ON THAT.
DEEMS, WHAT'S THE STATUS ON OUR MOLE?
WE'RE STILL GETTING INTERFERENCE BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE MOLE IS TRAPPED INSIDE THE DANGER ROOM. NOT NEAR THE TEAM.

SYDREN.
SPESSSSIAL AGENT BRAND.
TELL ME YOU'RE PICKING UP SOMETHING BESIDES "HOUSE GO BOOM".
IF I ATE YOUR HEAD, TWO THIRDSSS OF YOUR AGENTS WOULD PRAISE ME IN POEMS AND SSSONG.
SO MY APPROVAL RATING'S UP. TELL ME WHAT YOU GOT.
PRESENCE. NEW.
WHAT DOES "NEW" MEAN?
NON-HUMAN.
YOU MEAN ALIEN?
PUTS THE BALL IN OUR COURT.
THAT IT DOES.
THINK I'LL VISIT OUR HOUSEGUEST.

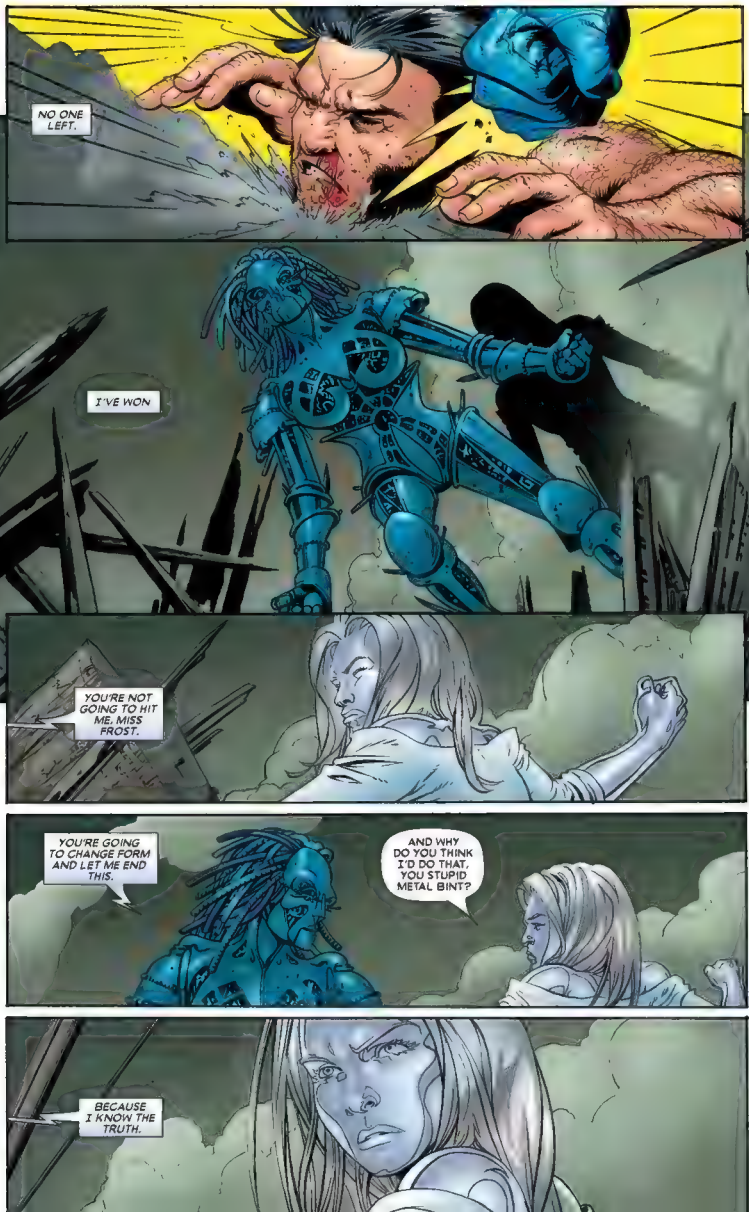
SCOTT!
I'VE GOT HIM!
YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP AT HER. FORGET ALL YOUR TRAINING--SHE'S FOUGHT YOU A THOUSAND TIMES.
DON'T PRESUME TO RUN MY TEAM, YOU LITTLE TART--

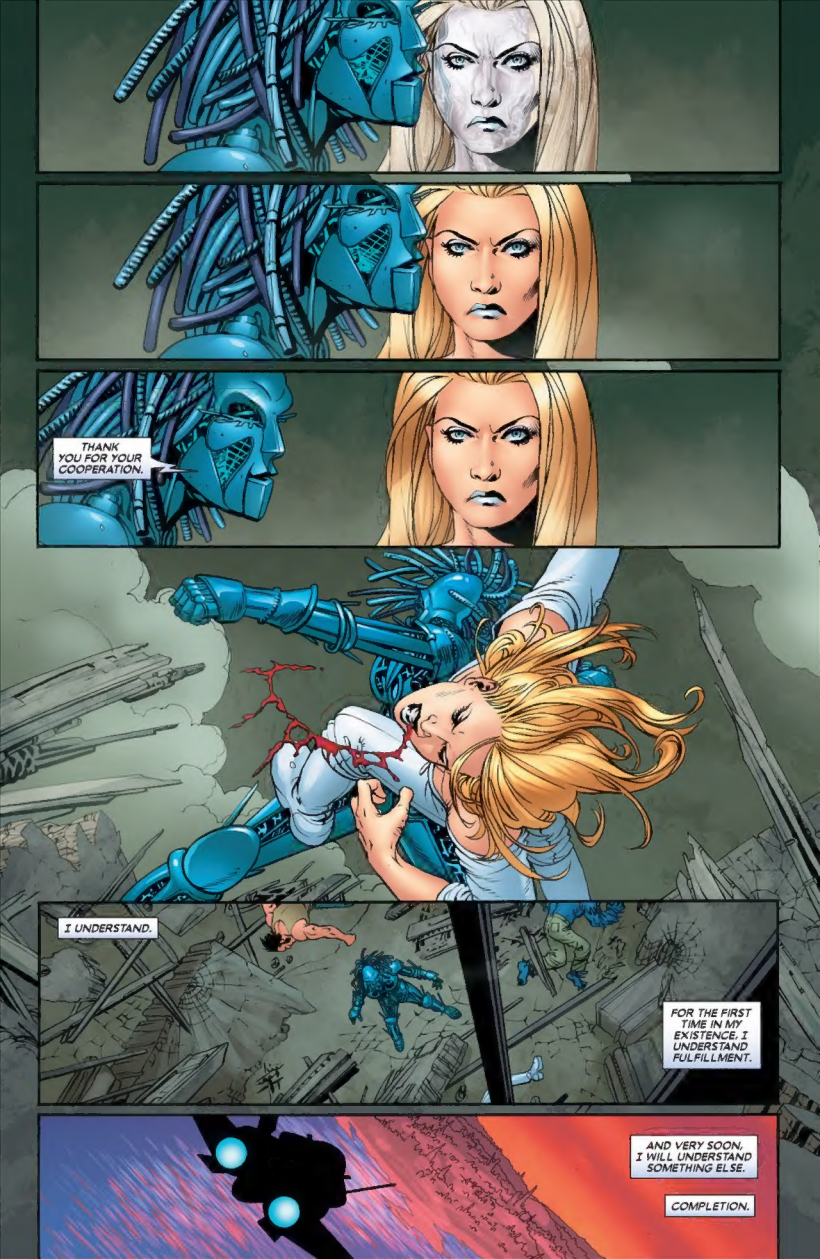
YES, I SEE HOW IT WORKS.
NORMALLY, I WOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT.
"SOMEONE IS TRYING TO KILL THE X-MEN?"
HOW SAD
SO IT'S NOT ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS.
I KILLED MY FRIENDS FOR THE HONOR OF COMING TO EARTH TO DESTROY THE X-MEN.
IT'S NOT A PRIVILEGE I PLAN TO SHARE.


BUT IT'S NOT REALLY GOING YOUR WAY, IS IT NOW? GOT YOURSELF INTO A TASTEFULLY FURNISHED PRISON CELL.
BECAUSE I LISTENED TO YOU. WORKED WITH YOUR PATHETIC SYSTEM. IF I HAD JUST FOLLOWED MY INSTINCT AND ATTACKED--
YOU'D BE DEAD AND OUR PLANETS WOULD BE AT WAR.
IT'S MY JOB TO PROTECT THE EARTH WITH MINIMUM BLOODSHED.
SO IF WE'RE LUCKY..
"...SOMEBODY'S DOING MY JOB FOR ME."


I KNOW ALL THEIR PRESSURE POINTS.
ALL THEIR COMBAT TECHNIQUES.
AND AS FOR THEIR WEAKNESSES...
OH GOD HE'S NOT BREATHING--
THE EQUATION IS SO SIMPLE IT'S BARELY WORTH THE THINKING OF.
SHE MUST REMAIN SOLID TO HELP HIM.

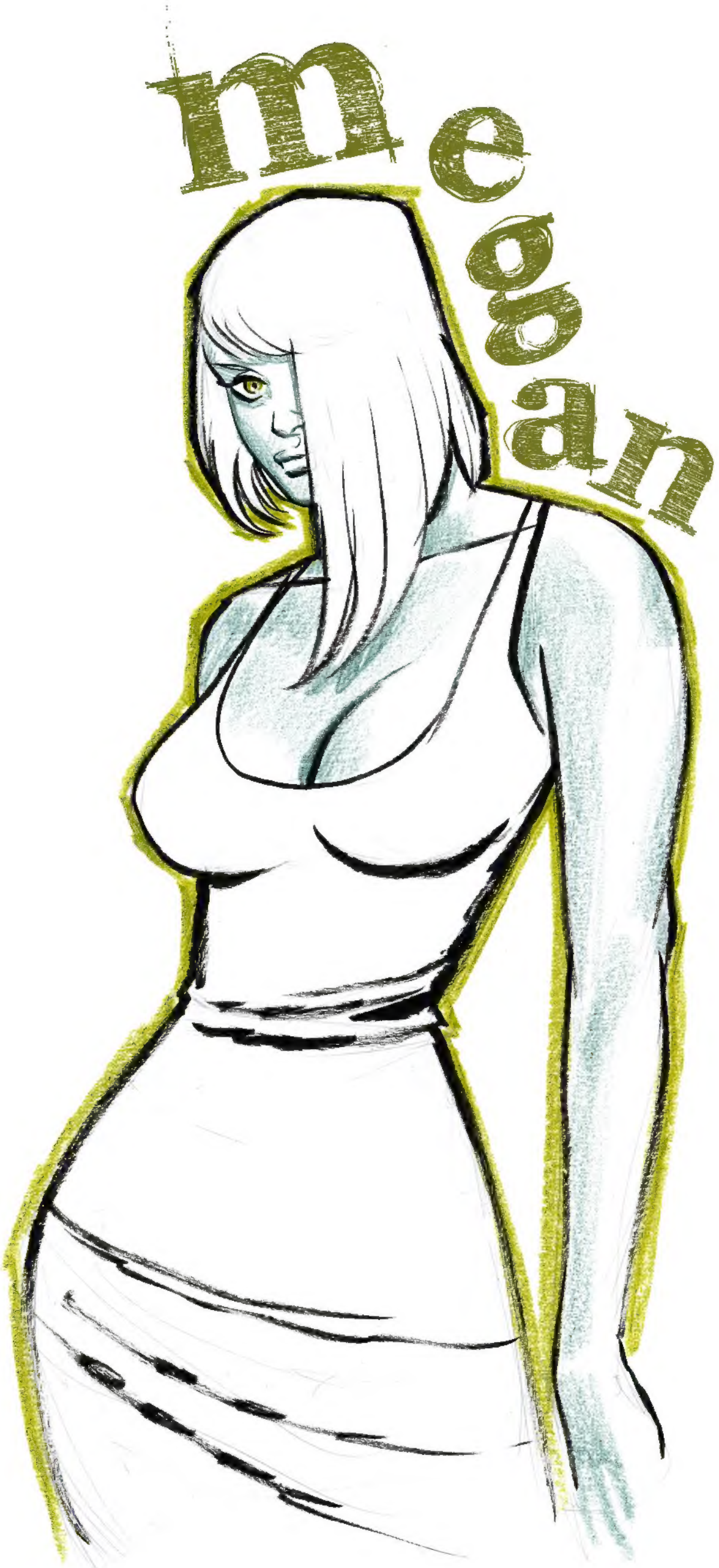
A MASS OF METAL TRAVELLING AT THIS SPEED WILL SPLATTER HER SKULL.
WHICH PETER WILL NEVER ALLOW.
THAT'S TEAMWORK.


NO ONE LEFT.
I'VE WON
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HIT ME. MISS FROST.
YOU'RE GOING TO CHANGE FORM AND LET ME END THIS.
AND WHY DO YOU THINK I'D DO THAT, YOU STUPID METAL BINT?
BECAUSE I KNOW THE TRUTH.


THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.
I UNDERSTAND.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY EXISTENCE, I UNDERSTAND FULFILLMENT.
AND VERY SOON, I WILL UNDERSTAND SOMETHING ELSE.
COMPLETION.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND, FATHER?
OF COURSE I DO.
IT'S NOT TERRIBLY ORIGINAL, ACTUALLY.
COMPLETION MEANS MY DEATH.
BUT YOU'VE MISCALCULATED, CHILD.
BECAUSE, YOU SEE, I AM INCALCULABLE.
YOU'VE HAD EVERY ADVANTAGE SO FAR. YOU WERE NEARLY PREDESTINED TO WIN.
YOU'VE FOUGHT MY X-MEN A THOUSAND TIMES, A MILLION IN YOUR MIND.

BUT YOU'VE NEVER FOUGHT ME!


meegan